



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

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Reply To
Attn Of:

ECO-088

2002 5 - NIT

01-047-BPA

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft. If you have any questions you may call me at (206) 553-6911, or Val Varney, (206) 553-1901.

Sarah Brnum
BPA, KC-4
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Dear Ms. Brnum:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the **Maiden Wind Farm**. Our review was conducted according to our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). Section 309 of the CAA directs the EPA to review and comment in writing on the environmental impacts of any major federal action.

Based upon our review, EPA has no significant concerns with the project and has rated it LO, Lack of Objection. EPA's earlier comments in a scoping letter including a description of existing conditions, environmental consequences, tribal consultation and tower design and avian mortality have been satisfactorily answered.

Washington Winds, Inc., the developer, plans to build and operate up to 494 megawatts (MW) of wind generation on mostly private farm and ranch land, and two sections of public land in Benton and Yakima Counties in southeast Washington. The project is located 10 miles northeast of Sunnyside in the Rattlesnake Hills on 251 acres of land. Depending on turbine height (300 to 390 feet), the number to be built range from 247 to 549 tubular steel turbines, mounted on reinforced concrete foundations.

Power from the turbines would be collected by an underground and overhead cable system, then fed to one or two proposed substations. Power would then be transmitted to one of three existing BPA transmission lines that transect the site. Other required facilities at the site include small pad-mounted transformers located at the base of each turbine tower, access roads, and two or three operation and maintenance buildings. The project is scheduled to be built the summer of 2002 and be operational the winter of 2002-2003.

Sincerely,


Judith Leckrone Lee, Manager
Geographic Unit